



July 25, 2013

Dear Sir or Madam:

The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB) and Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research (TIAER) cordially invite you and your neighbors to a meeting regarding the Recreational Use Attainability Analysis (RUAA) for Paradise Creek. At this meeting, you will have the opportunity to hear updates about the study and upcoming activities. The meeting will be held on Thursday July 11th, 2013 from 6:00pm until 8:00pm, at the Wilbarger County Arena Exhibit Building located at 2215 Harrold St in Vernon, Texas 76384. A map to the meeting place is printed on the back of this letter, and a tentative meeting agenda is available on the project website at: <http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/managementprogram/RUAAPARADISE>.

Paradise Creek is a headwater tributary of the Pease River within the Red River Basin. The creek flows 45 miles east from near Thalia in Foard County to the confluence with the Pease River in Wilbarger County. The watershed includes approximately 72,190 acres that encompass the City of Thalia and border the City of Vernon. Paradise Creek is one of many rural waterbodies listed on the *Texas 303(d) List* due to elevated levels of *E. coli*, the non-pathogenic indicator bacteria found in warm-blooded animals. These indicator bacteria are used to assess the possible presence of pathogens that would limit the contact recreation use of a waterbody. Paradise Creek was first listed as having a bacteria impairment for contact recreation on the *2006 Texas 303(d) List* and has been listed as having a concern for chlorophyll-a and nitrates in the *2010 Texas Water Quality Inventory*. Funding for this project is provided through a State Nonpoint Source Grant from the Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. The Texas Institute for Applied Environmental Research at Tarleton State University is facilitating the stakeholder process and conducting the field surveys for this recreational use attainability analysis.

At this meeting, stakeholders will be given an opportunity to view findings from the first RUAA field survey conducted on June 8, 2013. Your participation and input is fundamental to the success of this project.

More information about the study is available at
<http://www.tsswcb.texas.gov/en/managementprogram/RUAAPARADISE>.

If you have any questions, please contact Calvin Clary at (254)968-1921, or cclary@tiaer.tarleton.edu. We look forward to seeing you on Thursday July 11th at 6:00pm.

Sincerely,

Calvin Clary
Project Coordinator, TIAER at Tarleton State University

Enclosure: 1

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